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For Immediate Release  
October 6, 2004

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## **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Station gets new funding in 2005 Department of Agriculture budget**

**LANSING** – The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Station will receive \$30,000 in additional funding for capital improvements in the 2005 Department of Agriculture budget, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

“As someone whose family is heavily involved in the agriculture industry, I know how important it is to have this research continue,” McManus said. “This funding is critical to allow the station to focus on research projects that will benefit Michigan’s agricultural industry.”

There are approximately 70 applied research projects underway at the research station. While most of the work focuses on cherries, research also is conducted on several other crops including apples, plums, wine grapes, peaches, apricots, pears, chestnuts and hazelnuts and other potential horticultural crops for northwest and west central Michigan.

Northwest Michigan produces 120 to 150 million pounds of tart cherries and approximately 50 million pounds of sweet cherries annually. Michigan produces 75 percent of the tart cherries in the U.S. and is one of the four major producers of sweet cherries.

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